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**ALLEGED BIN LADEN AIDE SENTENCED TO 32 YEARS'  
IMPRISONMENT FOR BRUTAL ATTACK ON PRISON GUARD**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that MAHMOUD MAMDUH SALIM was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court by the United States District Judge DEBORAH A. BATTS to 32 years in prison for his brutal assault on Corrections Officer Louis Pepe of the Metropolitan Correctional Center ("MCC").

Prior to his attack on Officer Pepe, SALIM had been charged with numerous other defendants in the case of United States v. Bin Laden, (the "Embassy Bombings Case"). The Indictment in the Embassy Bombings Case alleged, among other things, that SALIM participated in a global conspiracy to kill Americans in connection with the operations of Al Qaeda, which conspiracy included the bombings by Al Qaeda operatives of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Among other things, the indictment specifically charged that SALIM was a trusted aide to Usama Bin Laden.

According to publicly-filed court documents, on November 1, 2000, while SALIM was awaiting trial on the charges

in the Embassy Bombings Case, he stabbed Officer Pepe in the left eye with a sharpened comb. Salim was charged in a multi-count indictment returned on January 3, 2001, with various crimes relating to the assault. On April 3, 2002, SALIM pled guilty to two charges related to the attack on November 1, 2000, specifically to (1) conspiring to murder Officer Pepe, and (2) attempting to murder Officer Pepe.

According to documents filed with the Court, evidence introduced during an eight-day sentencing hearing before Judge BATTS, and decisions by Judge BATTS in this case, SALIM launched his carefully-prepared assault on Officer Pepe with the assistance of his cellmate at the time (and his co-defendant in the Embassy Bombings Case) Khalfan Khamis Mohammed.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the attack, SALIM made knives out of a comb and hairbrush that he ordered from the MCC commissary, filled honey-bear bottles with hot sauce, and made ropes out of cloth and saran wrap.

The evidence showed that SALIM lured Officer Pepe into SALIM's cell on 10-South at the MCC, and SALIM and Mohammed then attacked Officer Pepe. SALIM knocked Officer Pepe down and sprayed hot sauce into his eyes in an attempt to blind him. When Officer Pepe continued to resist SALIM's and Mohammed's assault, SALIM took one of the knives that he had made and shoved it into Officer Pepe's left eye. According to court documents, this

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<sup>1</sup> Mohammed was convicted in the Embassy Bombings case and is currently serving a life sentence.

brutal assault caused horrific injuries to Officer Pepe.

Moreover, as the evidence at the hearing showed, SALIM's attack on Officer Pepe was simply the first step of a larger plan to commit other violent criminal acts. The Government had argued that SALIM attacked Officer Pepe to get the key to 10-South, which SALIM intended to use to free his co-defendants in the Embassy Bombings Case and to take hostages. However, in a sentencing opinion issued on September 25, 2003, Judge BATTS found that SALIM attacked Officer Pepe as the first step in a plan to assault SALIM's attorneys, and thereby to force United States District Judge LEONARD B. SAND, who was presiding over the Embassy Bombings Case, to appoint new attorneys for SALIM.

MR. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Assistant United States Attorneys ROBERT B. BUEHLER and JONATHAN S. KOLODNER are in charge of the prosecution.

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